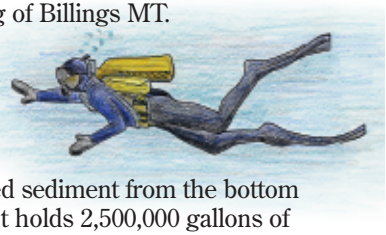
Commonly Asked Questions...

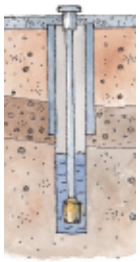
Is Greenfield's water fluoridated?

No! Greenfield's drinking water is not, nor ever has been fluoridated. Parents should discuss their children's fluoride needs with their dentist and pediatrician.

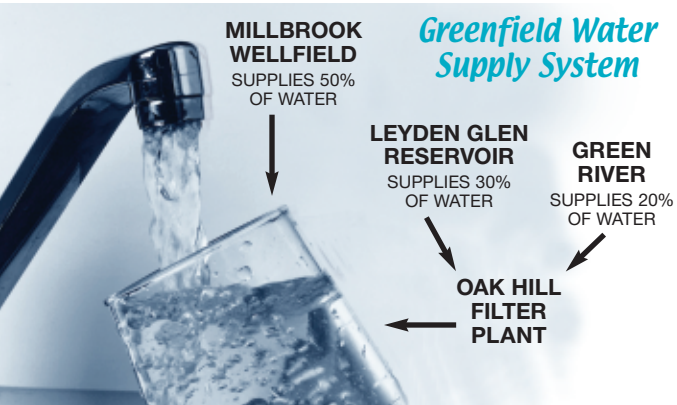
What's new in my water system?

In July the town's two water storage tanks, Rocky Mt and Adams Hill where cleaned and inspected by Liquid Engineering of Billings MT. Divers, equipped with disinfected wet suits and gear, entered the tanks while they were in operation and vacuumed accumulated sediment from the bottom of the tanks. Rocky Mt holds 2,500,000 gallons of water. It was constructed in 1910 and this was the first time it was cleaned in this fashion! Inspection revealed the tank to be in good condition despite its age. The Adams Hill tank supplies water to the Industrial Park and was built in 1985. It also is in very good condition. The cost for this work was $9640.





In December 2006 a new incoming electrical service was installed at the Millbrook Wellfield. The old service dated to the installation of the first well in 1947 and was reminiscent of a scene from Frankenstein's basement! This extensive upgrade cost $24,500 and will provide years of reliable service. The well field annually supplies over 50% of the town's water.



Water System Safeguards

Greenfield's water system is routinely inspected by the state Dept of Environmental Protection (DEP). DEP inspects our system for its technical, financial and managerial capacity to provide safe drinking water. To ensure that we provide the highest quality of water possible, your water system is operated by highly trained, certified operators.

QUESTIONS REGARDING WATER QUALITY

Sandra Shields, Water Facilities Supt.
772-1539 or SandraS@townofgreenfield.org

Leaks, low pressure, meter problems, billing information: 772-1528 ext 100 or 106

EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791

Recycling/trash disposal questions: 772-1528 ext 106 or JanineB@townofgreenfield.org

Hazardous waste disposal questions: 772-1539 or SandraS@townofgreenfield.org

Department of Public Works Office Hours: Mon. – Fri.: 7:00 am to 3:00 pm

Transfer Station Hours: Tuesday through Friday: 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm, Saturday: 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Thank you for conserving our water.

WATER QUALITY REPORT

Why buy bottled water?

GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
Mayor Christine Forgey

VOLUME IX • REPORTING YEAR 2006
PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY # 1114000

Why buy bottled water?

Did you know…

Bottled Water – Pricier Than Gas!

At $2.50 a liter (or $9.45 per gallon) for some of the pricier brands, it costs far more to drink bottled water than to fill up your gas tank. *Yet, most people never question why they are willing to pay 3000 times more for bottled water than tap water! Currently, one gallon of tap water costs $0.003.*

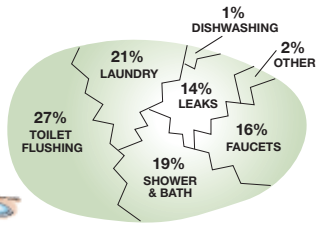
A four year study by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) concluded that "no one should assume that because water comes from a bottle that it is necessarily any purer or safer than most tap water." In fact, the bulk of bottled water is derived from municipal water suppliers. Municipal tap water is regulated by the EPA, whereas bottled water is regulated by the FDA. Testing requirements are more numerous and stringent for tap water. For example, a town the size of Greenfield must test its tap water for coliform bacteria 25-50 times per month, depending on the water source used. A large water bottling plant only has to test its water for coliform bacteria once per week.

The majority of bottled water is in plastic bottles, which unlike tap water, has no established limits or testing requirements for many contaminants including the chemical di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP). Produced in plastics manufacturing, DEHP, a probable human carcinogen and hormone disrupting chemical migrates into water from plastic bottles. It is regulated under EPA tap water rules, but not under FDA's bottled water rules.

Americans' demand for bottled water requires more than 1.5 million barrels of oil annually to make bottles.

Where does your water go?

Each Greenfield resident uses about 105 gallons of water every day. By conserving, you can reduce your water use by as much as 30%! A household faucet runs at 3 to 5 gallons a minute. Avoid waste, turn faucets off firmly!



SUBSTANCES DETECTED

Below are substances that were detected in the Town's drinking water during the years listed next to the parameter. None of these substances were detected above the allowable limit.

CHEMICAL PARAMETERS

SUBSTANCE / YEAR	UNITS	HIGHEST LEVEL ALLOWED (EPA's MCL)*	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF DETECTED LEVELS	IDEAL GOALS (EPA's MCLG)*	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
Barium '04	ppm	2.0	0.008	0.008	2.0	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate '06	ppm	10.0	0.27	0.17 - 0.27	10.0	Runoff from fertilizer use; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrite '05	ppm	1.0	0.08	0.06 - 0.08	1.0	Runoff from fertilizer use; Erosion of natural deposits.
Chlorine '06	ppm	MRDL= 4	1.48	.01 – 1.48	MRDLG = 4	Water treatment chemical used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes '06	ppb	100	9.5 Annual average	4.2 – 16.5	0	Disinfection by-products
Haloacetic Acids '06	ppb	60	4.1 Annual average	2.2 – 7.1	n/a	Disinfection by-products
Radium 226 & 228 '03	pCi/l	5	0.8	0.2 – 1.0	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity* '06	NTU	Treat tech* = 1	0.45	.04 - 0.45	none	Soil runoff
Lead '05	ppb	Action level*= 15	3 90th percentile	0 – 48.0 4 sites > 15	0	Household plumbing and service connections
Copper '05	ppm	Action level* = 1.3	1.3 90th percentile	0.10 - 2.47 4 sites > 1.3	1.3	Household plumbing and service connections
Sodium.'06	ppm	N/A	3.43	3.43	N/A	Runoff from stormwater
Sulfate '04	ppm	N/A	6.4	6.4	N/A	Natural sources
Dinoseb '06	ppb	7	0.1	<0.1 - 0.1	7	Agricultural runoff

DEFINITIONS:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there are no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

ppm: One part per million (this would be one penny in $10,000)

ppb: One part per billion (one penny in $10,000,000)

***Treatment Technique:** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

***Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant that triggers treatment or other requirement that a water system must follow. Action levels are reported at the 90th percentile for homes at greatest risk.

***Turbidity:** Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

Are there any precautions some of our customers should consider?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Crytosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The Town is mandated by EPA to include the following generic language about the health effects of certain contaminants and drinking water sources:

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of certain substances, which EPA calls "contaminants" even if the source of the contaminant is from naturally occurring phenomena such as rock formations. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include microbial, inorganic, organic and radioactive contaminants.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.